

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

**Senator Daniel A. Akaka**  
**Chairman, Subcommittee on International Security,**  
**Proliferation, and Federal Services**

**Closing Statement for hearing:**  
**"U.S. Policy in Iraq: Next Steps"**  
**March 1, 2002**

I would like to thank my fellow Senators for their time and interest in this important issue. Mr. Einhorn, Dr. Kay, and Dr. Spertzel, thank you for your thoughtful remarks. Your testimony has been very thorough. I think I can sum up your statements by saying that we have lost the propaganda battle with Iraq and the solution to the threat posed by Iraq to the U.S. and the world is to replace Saddam Hussein and his regime. You have done the American people a great service by providing such useful and candid statements and sharing your experience and knowledge with us.

You have painted a dark picture. Our nation and our allies have some difficult decisions to make about Iraq.

The deterrence effect of weapons of mass destruction has been both a benefit and hazard to the United States and our allies. On one hand, reports indicate that during the Gulf War, Iraq resisted using chemical weapon warheads against Coalition troops and Israel out of fear of United States retaliation. On the other hand, Iraqi leaders are convinced that their possession of WMD was vital to their survival by keeping American and Coalition forces from going to Baghdad in 1991. I think we have to ask ourselves, with that mindset, how realistic is it to expect the current regime in Iraq to ever give up WMD capabilities?

As Mr. Einhorn has said, the current regime in Iraq is truly in a class by itself.

The United Nations's credibility is being undermined by Iraq's well-documented and clear-cut violations of proliferation agreements. If we fail to stop Iraq's WMD programs, how will we be able to stop other nations with similar intentions, such as Iran?

The international community must work together. The implementation of any system to destroy Iraq's WMD capabilities will depend on firm and active support by the international community.

We have heard a lot of very strong rhetoric about Iraq. Now we must put action behind the rhetoric.

We must state, clearly, what our objectives are in Iraq. We must decide what policies are needed to meet these objectives. And, we must state when we will use force to meet these objectives. This is the only way to maintain our credibility with our allies and adversaries.

Gentlemen, we have no further questions at this time; however, members of this Subcommittee may submit questions in writing for any of the witnesses. We would appreciate a timely response to any questions. The Record will remain open for these questions and for further statements from my colleagues.

And again, I would like to express my appreciation, once again to all the

witnesses for their time and for sharing their insights with us. This has been valuable to this Committee.

This hearing is adjourned.

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